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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/915,906

Applicant(s)

CHA, BYOUNG KWON

Examiner

Tan T. Nguyen

Art Unit

2827

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (~~OR REMAINS~~) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Supplemental Oath filed on.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 23-33 and 41-44.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 08/882,835.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

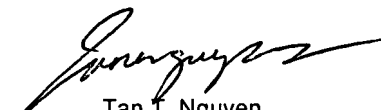
4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


 Tan T. Nguyen
 Primary Examiner
 Art Unit 2827

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1. The Supplemental Oath submitted by Applicant on April 28, 2007 has been received.
2. Claim 1-5, 23-33, 41-44 are allowed.
3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Steve Y. Cho on May 9, 2006.
4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Claims 17-19 have been canceled.

In the specification, page 1, line 1, the words --This application is a Reissue application of U.S. Patent application No. 08/882, 835, filed on June 26, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,930,179-- have been inserted.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art to the present invention is Mehrotra et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,163,021). Mehrotra et al. disclosed a memory device comprises a read/program latches and shift registers circuit coupled to a compare circuit, which is coupled to a program with inhibit circuit. Mehrotra et al. failed to show or suggest the combination of a comparator, a data latch circuit for latching the comparing results of the output data of the data input buffer and the output data of the sense amplifier, a control circuit for outputting a signal for applying a program bias voltage to a memory cell which has not been completely programmed in response to a power-up reset signal and a program state signal as in claims 1-5; or the comparator having a

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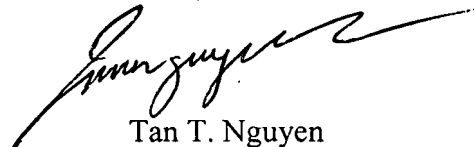
logic gate to output a first signal, which is N bits of data, to indicate whether or not a reprogramming operation is needed, and the comparator includes a plurality of XNOR gates, wherein outputs of the XNOR gates indicate whether the first information and the second information are the same as in claims 23-33; or the combination of a comparator having a plurality of logic gates, a data latch circuit coupled to outputs of one or more of the logic gates of the comparator, and a controller having a plurality of logic gates and being configured to receive the first information of the input data buffer and outputs of the data latch circuit as in claims 41-44.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tan T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1789. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 07:00 AM to 03:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amir Zarabian, can be reached at (571) 272-1852. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Tan T. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2827
May 09, 2007